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THE SKY CITY  
P. O. Box 300  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87503

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

TELEPHONE: 505-827-1111

June 21, 1983

GOVERNOR  
VICE GOVERNOR  
COMMISSIONER  
SECRETARY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL  
SOLICITOR GENERAL  
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT  
CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT  
CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT  
CLERK OF THE PROBATE COURT  
CLERK OF THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

New Mexico Environmental  
Improvement Division  
P.O. Box 968  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

Re: Notice of potential toxic and other harmful degradation of the  
Acoma Pueblo's domestic water supply.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of an article entitled "Homestake, EPA reach accord on subdivision water," from the Grants Daily Beacon, dated June 17, 1983, concerning the effect that the Homestake Mining Company tailings dump at Milan, New Mexico, is having upon the ground water supply for the domestic wells that serve the surrounding communities.

The elevated levels of selenium caused by the Homestake tailings dump in that area is so dangerous to the population of those communities that bottled water is being provided to the residents and another source of domestic supply is being provided for residents of the surrounding communities. That contamination of the ground water supply is of serious concern to this Pueblo, because the ground water affected is part of the alluvium of the Rio San Jose. The alluvium of that river is also the source of our domestic water supply, and even though we are located 12 to 15 miles downstream from the communities in question, that contaminated water is obviously moving through the alluvium in our direction. It is only a matter of time until we will be affected unless the matter is cleaned up. We have inspected the site, and our concern has increased.

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Because of our great concern and the direct impact on our water supply that may occur, we ask that we be given all of the available information on this subject. We also request a copy of all plans designed to correct the situation together with an explanation of all decisions that are made on the matter.

We note that the EPA has engaged in an agreement with the Homestake Mining Company that includes a program for cleaning up the aquifer and correcting the effect that the Company's tailings dump has upon the aquifer. We note also that a plan to correct this serious degradation problem has been submitted to the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Division (EID).

Please send us copies of the Mining Company's agreement with the EPA and a copy of the all plans for the proposed clean-up program, and any other documents that explain the situation or that will explain the action taken by the EPA or the EID on this subject.

We will appreciate your cooperation in sending us the required information, plus notifying us of any hearings in which we may participate to determine the potential effect of this pollution upon our water supply.

Our Indian Pueblo expects your agency, as the concerned agency of the State Government, to fulfill the State's responsibility to protect our domestic water supply from the toxic and other harmful substances from this mine tailings dump. In addition, we note that there are other mining activities in this area whose effluent is being discharged into arroyos and creek beds which are tributary to the Rio San Jose. That effluent, over a period of time, can directly affect the alluvium from which we draw our domestic and agricultural water supplies. We refer particularly to NPDES Permit No. NM 00203089 issued to the United Nuclear-Homestake Partners Mine located on a tributary of San Mateo Creek. We seriously question whether the limitations of that permit are adequate to protect our water supplies from future contamination since that effluent makes its way down that tributary into the Rio San Jose.

We ask that you work with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque Area Director, Albuquerque Area Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in fulfilling the responsibilities of the State toward this Pueblo to protect our water supplies from the adverse effects of all toxic and unlawful degradation emanating from all the mining activities identified above.

Your response to this matter and a explanation of the steps that you believe are adequate to protect the quality of our water supply would be appreciated. A copy of your response to us should be directed to our attorneys: Ortega & Sneed P.A., 201 12th St. N.W.,

Albuquerque, N.M. 87102, Phone No. (505) 242-3177; and Harold Ranguist, 211 12th St. N.W., Albuquerque, N.M. 87102, Phone No. (505) 247-1144. We wish to keep them advised on the progress in this matter. They are our representatives and will be participating in the protection of our water supply.

We do appreciate your efforts in our behalf.

Sincerely,

Merle L. Garcia  
Governor, New Mexico

cc: Ortega & Snead  
Area Director's Office, AAO  
S.P.A.  
Harold A. Ranguist

# Beaumont, E.J. Beach accord on subdivision water

Beaumont, E.J. Beach, a privately owned water supply company, has agreed to provide water to the subdivision of Broadview Acres, a project of the N.M. E.J.B. Co., the company's new release from its corporate headquarters in Salt Lake City.

The agreement will pay for the water supply system which will be installed by the company. The agreement will also pay for the water supply system which will be installed by the company.

The company and the E.J.B. Co. entered an agreement to supply water to the subdivision of Broadview Acres and the company began a testing program, which continues.

The company also offered, and began supplying water to residents in the affected subdivisions. The company will continue to carry out its program for cleaning up the water in the vicinity of its mill under the terms of a plan submitted to the N.M. E.J.B. Co. the company's new release from its corporate headquarters in Salt Lake City.

The agreement, announced today, will become effective after the public has an opportunity to comment on it and following approval by the U.S. District Court. Beaumont officials are expected to be completed in 1984.



BEAUMONT, E.J. BEACH

IN THE GRANITE CAPITAL

BEACON

Section Pages

Granite, New Mexico 87020

Friday, June 17, 1983

Twenty-five Cents

